

Stuart M Castle  
38 Merrin Street  
Christchurch 4

Christchurch City Council

3<sup>rd</sup> May 2004

Re Submission in respect of City Plan

Dear Sir,

I would like to commence my submission by reinforcing the tenet of all democratically elected governments "Government for the people by the people".

The continual raising of property rates to levels higher than the rate of inflation is completely unacceptable. This issue needs to be addressed NOW. This is particularly relevant to pensioners and others on fixed income that does not receive offsetting annual increments. It is time to actively consider a rate relief policy for these people!

A significant number of proposed projects also need to be rescinded as there is little obvious benefit to the community at large (e.g. new council offices, flat water facility and termination/compensation of City Care refuse contract to name but a few).

Major capital expenditure must focus on the real needs of the majority of the community. Minority projects also need the support of the majority of ratepayers.

Another factor needing to be addressed is the lack of accountability. When things go wrong nobody appears to be held accountable, but fingers point in all directions. If the community is more involved in the decision making process the accountability becomes more transparent (e.g. Council should prove need to rate-payers in respect of the proposed new council offices)



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